

## CATARACT FALLS COVERED BRIDGE

Cataract Falls Bridge is the only surviving covered bridge in Owen County, Indiana. It is also one of only six Smith trusses in Indiana. This construction was patented by Robert W. Smith and built by his company or under license to him.

While the majority of Indiana's covered bridges have Burr Arch Trusses, his truss design was a simple lattice-work of crossing timbers. The members pointing away from the center as they go up were in tension, and the members pointing in as they go up were in compression. Instead of constructing his bridge on site, Smith built his bridges in the "controlled environment" of his Toledo shops and delivered the pieces to be assembled on location. This allowed the Cataract Bridge's white pine timbers to have smooth, planed surfaces and uniform dimensions.

Smith trusses were produced in a manner very much at odds with the romantic conception of covered bridges as a product of pre-industrial times. Instead, bridges like the one at Cataract show many features characteristic of the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century industrial age we are more likely to associate with iron bridge construction. This bridge may be the best surviving example of the Smith Truss.

The preservation work was partially funded with National Historic Covered Bridge Preservation (NHCBP) Program and Transportation Equity Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (TEA-21) grants. NHCBP provides funding to assist efforts to preserve, rehabilitate, or restore National Register eligible and listed covered bridges. TEA-21 funds activities that are "designed to strengthen the cultural, aesthetic, and environmental aspects of the Nation's transportation system" It has been instrumental in funding the preservation of numerous bridges, depots, and one-of-a-kind transportation related historic structures throughout Indiana. Both programs are funded by acts of Congress, and operated by the Federal Highway Administration through the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT).

Rehabilitation cost approximately \$520,000. The DNR's share was approximately \$110,000.

The bridge was entered in the National Register of Historic Places in April of 2005, and was documented by the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) in 2004.

## DESCRIPTION OF TRAILS

1. COVERED BRIDGE NATURE TRAIL: MODERATE — .75 mile. Starts and ends near the sports and activity field. Stoned trail with benches and covered bridge. Wheelchair Accessible.

## PLEASE STAY ON MARKED TRAILS!

## ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES

**AQUATIC CENTER** — Located at Lieber SRA. Opens Memorial Day. Length of season may vary. For swimming availability contact the property office.

**BOAT RAMPS** — Available at two (2) locations, boat launching ramps are marked on the map.

**BOAT RENTAL** — Fishing boats and pontoon boats are available by the hour or day. Inquire at Boat Rental Office for rates and reservations at the marina.

**CAMPING** — Campsites available are: Electric and Non-electric sites. Occupancy limited to 14 consecutive nights. Reservations are available through the Central Reservation System.

**CONCESSION & CAMPGROUND GROCERY** — Open summer months. Wood, ice, picnic supplies and groceries available.

**FISHING** — Bass, bluegill, catfish, crappie, hybrid stripers and walleye. State license required and available at property office.

**HIKING** — Easy to moderate marked Wildflower and Nature trails are available for hiking all year.

**HUNTING** — All hunters are required by law to sign in and return a hunting permit card to a hunter sign-in station. Hunting in resting areas is allowed by permit only. Areas available for disabled hunters.

**INTERPRETIVE & RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS** Explore the world of natural resources while enjoying interpretive and recreational programs at the Nature Center. Program schedules are available on the website at [www.interpretiveservices.IN.gov](http://www.interpretiveservices.IN.gov) or call (765) 795-3552.

**MARINA** — Located at Lieber SRA provides concessions, seasonal mooring, fuel, boat rental and fishing supplies.

**PICNIC AREAS** — Tables, grills, toilet facilities, playground equipment and playfields. Accessible picnic sites available.

**SHELTERS** — Reservations for shelters available through the Central Reservation System.

Please let wild animals remain wild. Feeding deer is prohibited. Feeding of wild animals can result in harm to both animals and people. Animals who depend on handouts become a nuisance to visitors and a danger to themselves. Please lock up all food and coolers inside cars or campers. Roll car windows up tightly.

## THIS IS YOUR LAKE

All visitors are expected to observe the following rules which are designed to fulfill the purposes for which the state operates reservoir properties, namely, to manage these areas for the enhancement of wildlife and for the use and enjoyment of the people.

## RULES AND REGULATIONS

- A person must not conduct or participate in a fishing tournament on a reservoir property administered by the division of state parks and reservoirs except under a license.
- A person must not launch, dock, or moor a watercraft or another floating device, except for approved periods and at sites designated by the department for those purposes. A watercraft shall not be left unattended in a courtesy dock.
- Any firearm, BB gun, air gun, CO2 gun, bow and arrow must be unloaded or un-nocked and stored in a case or locked within a vehicle except in accordance with the terms of a one (1) day hunting permit and record card obtained from a hunter sign station and possessed by the person in the field for a specified date.
- A person who possesses a pet must keep the animal caged or on a leash no more than six feet and attended at all times.
- There shall be no vending or advertising without permission of the Department of Natural Resources.
- Camping is permitted only in the campground. Youth groups must be under adult supervision.
- Fires shall be built only in places provided.
- Please comply with the Carry In/Carry Out trash policy in all day use areas. Overnight guests must put waste in receptacles provided for that purpose.
- Motorists will observe speed limits as posted, and park in designated areas. 25 m.p.h. maximum.
- A person must not possess or consume an alcoholic beverage at a swimming beach and pool.
- Drinking water should be taken only from pumps, hydrants or fountains provided for that purpose. This water is tested regularly for purity.
- Report lost or found articles to the property office.
- Feeding of wildlife is prohibited.
- Use of metal detectors is prohibited.

For a complete list of rules and regulations inquire at property office.

Today, over a century later, for many of these same industries provide a livelihood for area residents who take pride in their resourceful heritage. Livestock and grain farms, forest industries, and limestone quarries contribute to the local economy. The railroad lines (under different names) are still active and important in the movement of area products.

Visitors to the site of the old Jennings Mill in Cataract can — with imagination stimulated by a glimpse of the old dam and mill race remnants — relive the early days of the life among the rolling hills.

## CENTRAL RESERVATION SYSTEMS

Reservations for all types of camping, family cabins, and shelters at state parks, reservoirs and forests can be made by going online or use the toll free number.

[www.camp.IN.gov](http://www.camp.IN.gov)  
1-866-6campIN  
(1-866-622-6746)



Reservations for the Indiana State Park Inns and Inn-operated cabins can be made by going online or use the toll free number.

[www.indianainns.com](http://www.indianainns.com)  
1-877-lodges1  
(1-877-563-4371)



Please carry out all trash you produce in order to keep your property clean and beautiful for others to enjoy!

## FOR MORE INFORMATION



Write: Cagles Mill Lake  
1317 W. Lieber Road, Suite 1  
Cloverdale, IN 46120  
Call: (765) 795-4576

## DNR

Indiana Department of Natural Resources

[www.dnr.IN.gov](http://www.dnr.IN.gov)

## SPECIAL NOTE

Receipts from admission and service charges are used to help defray the operation and maintenance costs of the lake. List of fees available in the lake office.

The Programs, services, facilities, and activities of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources are available to everyone. DNR prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire further information please write to: Department of Natural Resources, Executive Office, 402 W. Washington Street, Room W256, Indianapolis, IN 46204, (317) 232-4020.

INDIANA

## CAGLES MILL LAKE

LIEBER STATE RECREATION AREA



Cagles Mill Lake lies in Putnam and Owen Counties in south-central Indiana — approximately midway between Indianapolis and Terre Haute.

Cagles Mill Lake was designed and built by the Louisville District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and is operated primarily for flood control in the Eel and White River watersheds and forms an integral unit of the comprehensive flood control plan for the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers.

Cagles Mill Lake was the first flood control lake project in the Louisville District selected for construction under the authority of the Flood Control Act of 1938. Construction began in July 1948 and was completed in June 1953. The lake is also known locally as "Cataract Lake."

The recreation facilities at the lake are maintained and operated by the State of Indiana, Department of Natural Resources, with the exception of the damsite which the Corps maintains and operates.

## AREA HISTORY AND POINTS OF INTEREST

Cagles Mill Lake is located within the Wabash River Valley in an area of scenic beauty. Picturesque Cataract Falls are at the headwaters of the lake — providing a pleasant experience for the visitor. An early settler appropriately described the region as "a sensitive display of rolling hills surrounded by numerous streams and creeks. The hills often rise into steep rock bluffs or furnish valleys with soil as rich as the prized river bottoms." It was this presence of fertile soil and abundance of fresh water that had for centuries attracted Indians to the area.

The Miami, Shawnee, and Potawatomi Indians were the dominant tribes which inhabited the region through the 18th Century. However, in the late 1700's the relentless western expansion of the white settlers reached the area and threatened the Indian's claim to the land. Frequent conflicts followed, culminating at the Battles of Tippecanoe and Fallen Timbers which effectively destroyed the tribes as an organized fighting force, and forced the Indians to surrender their land claims in the Indiana Territory. The "Ten O'Clock Line" Treaty, signed in 1809, gave pioneers claim to the land south and west of a line established by the shadow of a tree at ten o'clock, the time when the treaty was signed. This line crossed the Lieber State Recreation Area and the Lower Cataract Falls. With the signing of the Ten O'Clock Treaty and, subsequently, the Treaty of 1818, land in the Cagles Mill Lake area was opened for settlement.

A great migration was started immediately by pioneers eager to claim the valuable resources of the area. They cleared the dense hardwood forests and farmed the river bottoms. The plentiful water supply was utilized with the development of grist mills and sawmills which gave rise to the local communities of Cataract and Cunot. Cagles Mill Lake bears the name of an old grist mill which was just downstream from the lake. Cagles Mill was destroyed and rebuilt several times before finally being destroyed by fire in 1975. The old low level dam is still in place.

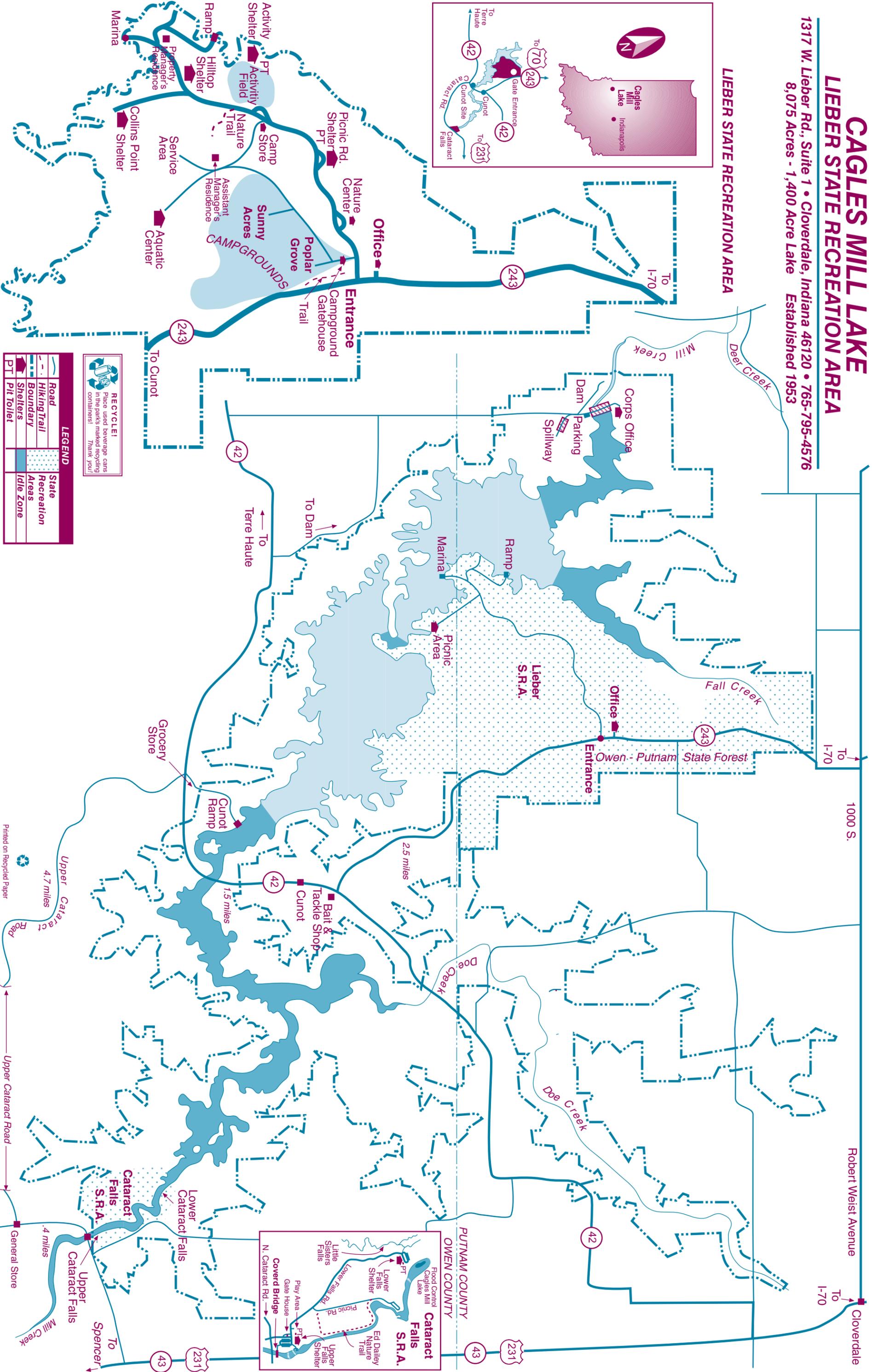
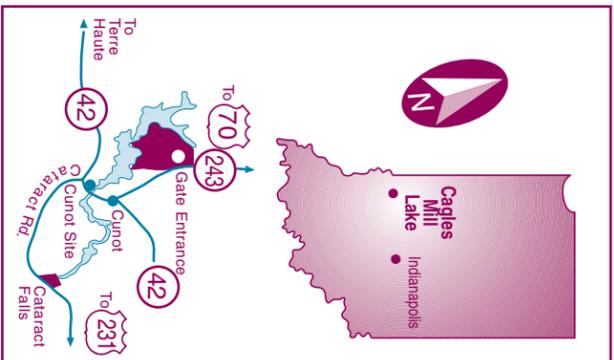
Development of the region progressed rapidly with the discovery of limestone rock beds, gravel deposits, and other mineral deposits near Cloverdale, Putnamville, and Reelsville. The National Trail (U.S. 40) and the onset of the railroad encouraged growth by providing employment, increased business, while easing the transportation of goods and raw materials. The Vandalia, Monon and B&O Railroads played an integral part in the diversified development of the Cagles Mill Lake area.

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# CAGLES MILL LAKE LIEBER STATE RECREATION AREA

1317 W. Lieber Rd., Suite 1 • Cloverdale, Indiana 46120 • 765-795-4576  
8,075 Acres - 1,400 Acre Lake Established 1953

## LIEBER STATE RECREATION AREA



LEGEND	
	Road
	Hiking Trail
	Boundary
	Shelters
	Pit Toilet
	State Recreation Areas
	Idle Zone



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